

ACF-ACYF-CB FY13 – ABSTRACTS**Grant Number:** CO13000122**Fiscal Year:** 2013**Target Population:** Youth ages 12 to 17**Diligent Recruitment of Families for Children in the Foster Care System****HHS-2013-ACF-ACYF-CO-0593****GRANTEE INFORMATION:****Name:** Allegheny County**Address:** One Smithfield Street, Suite 400**City/State/Zip Code:** Pittsburgh, PA, 15222-2225**Principal Contact Person:** Marc Cherna**Telephone Number:** 412-350-5705**Email Address:** Marc.Cherna@alleghenycounty.us**OTHER GRANT INFORMATION:****Amount of Award:** \$381,144**Program Name:** Recruiting & Engagement Continuum**Project Period:** 9/30/13 - 9/29/18**ACF Region:** 3**Congressional District Served:** 4, 12**ABSTRACT:**

Organization Description: DHS recently reformed its practice model for client and family engagement, its family finding process and the way in which placement decisions are made. There are interdependencies among these new initiatives and the recruiting and engagement of resource families. Through comprehensive data analysis, DHS discovered that its resource family network does not meet its current placement needs. For example, gaps in resources were identified in families willing to serve older youth and children with behavioral and medical needs, as well as gaps in several neighborhoods. Additionally, the majority of resource families reported they are interested in additional training/support to better serve children in care.

Use(s) of ACF Program Grant Funds: To further the reform efforts of DHS and create a comprehensive approach to recruit, engage and support resource families, we propose the implementation of a Recruiting and Engagement Continuum with five components: 1. Identify DHS' needs for resource families – leverage existing data collection and reporting capacity. 2. Recruit representative network of resource families – data-driven, comprehensive, multi-faceted diligent recruiting campaign led by a selected marketing agency in partnership with community stakeholders. 3. Match child(ren) to placement resource that is in their best interest – using DHS' recently implemented placement decision support tool 4. Ongoing training, engagement and support for resource families – includes DHS' Conferencing and Teaming engagement model, a new comprehensive training plan targeting resource families as well as a peer support model Parent Support Partners to be piloted in one regional office. 5. Feedback loop to lead continuous quality improvement – systemic approach to using youth and resource family feedback to guide efforts.

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